



# OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS FRANKEL (FL-22)

## Fiscal Year 2024 Community Project Funding Guidance

### *General Information*

- Community Project Funding (CPF), formerly known as earmarks, is a way for Members of Congress to submit specific local projects to be included in the annual appropriations bill for funding.
- Each Member of Congress may request up to 15 total CPF's across the seven available appropriations bills.
  - There is no guarantee all projects submitted will be included in the bills or funded at the requested levels.
- Applicants must be state or local government entities or a non-profit for certain programs.
- All projects submitted by the Member will be posted publicly on both the Appropriations Committee and Member's websites.
  - The website must contain the proposed recipient and address of the recipient, the amount of the request, and an explanation of the request, including the purpose and why it is a valuable use of taxpayer funds. Our FY23 webpage can be found [here](#) and all Congressional Member submissions can be found [here](#).
- Projects are required to show broad community support. This could include but not limited to letters of support from local legislatures, resolutions from local governments or city councils, press articles highlighting the need for the project, and local transportation or infrastructure plans.
- Each appropriations account has specific guidelines and requirements, so please refer to the application for more information. Several accounts were removed from FY23.
- Predicted timeline:
  - Applications are due **March 14<sup>th</sup>**, but please submit as soon as possible.
  - The Congresswoman will review all the applications and select the projects by the end of March to submit to the Appropriations Committee.
  - The Committee will approve the bills in May or June and have the House vote on the bills in June or July.
  - The fiscal year ends on September 30, 2023, so the House and Senate will either negotiate a final appropriations bills by that date or pass a Continuing Resolution to keep current federal funding until an agreement is made.
    - Please note that for FY23, the final appropriations bill was not agreed upon until three months after the end of the fiscal year.
    - Keep in mind with a divided Congress, it may be very difficult to come to a funding agreement at all, risking the inclusion of project entirely.
  - Once bills are approved and signed by the President, recipients will work with the appropriate federal agency to submit the necessary paperwork in order to receive funding.

## *Accounts and Examples of Projects*

### **Energy and Water**

- Corps of Engineers—Investigations, Construction, Mississippi River and Tributaries, Operation and Maintenance
  - Only currently authorized projects may receive funding.
  - There will be funding for a very limited number of new start projects, if any, in the Investigations, Construction, and Mississippi River and Tributaries accounts.
    - Project Example: Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Project
- Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources
  - Project Example: Eastern New Mexico Water Supply—Ute Reservoir

### **Commerce, Justice, Science**

- Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
  - Byrne JAG Grants assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities. Community projects funded under this category must comply with the requirements cited in JAG statutes and be consistent with Justice Department guidance for the program.
    - Project Example: Crisis Intervention Training for Orange County, FL Sheriff Department
- COPS Technology and Equipment
  - Funding will be provided for community project grants for State, local, and tribal law enforcement to develop and acquire effective technologies and interoperable communications that assist in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime, provided that such equipment meets the applicable requirements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES).
    - Project Example: Napa County Public Safety Radio and Communication Upgrade Project, Secure Mobile Radio Site for West Palm Beach
- **\*New for FY24\*** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Coastal Zone Management
  - Coastal Zone Management projects support the protection, restoration, and responsible development of our nation's diverse coast communities.
  - Funding must be for activities consistent with NOAA's mission and aligned with purposes in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.
    - Project Example: Sea walls to fight against sea level rise, reducing marine debris, enhancing public access to coastal areas
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Safety, Security and Mission Services
  - Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of the work of NASA's mission directorates and within the agency's authorities, such as STEM education activities and scientific research.
  - Funding for building construction or renovation projects **will not** be considered for community project funding.
    - Project Example: STEMConnect: NASA STEM Literacy & Community Enrichment
- NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)
  - Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of NIST's mission and within its authorities, such as STEM education activities, scientific research, or other activities that support American manufacturing and industry.
  - This account **does not** fund vehicles or building construction or renovation.

- Project Example: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) After School Program in Illinois

## **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development**

- Department of Transportation—Highway Infrastructure Projects
  - Capital projects or project-specific design for a capital project.
  - Supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
  - Administered by public entities or Tribal entities
    - Project Example: Port St. Lucie Boulevard South Widening and Improvements
- Department of Transportation—Transit Infrastructure Projects
  - Transit capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a transit capital project
  - Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement
  - Sponsored by designated recipients, States (including territories and the District of Columbia), local governmental authorities, and/or Indian tribes.
    - Project Example: Bus Stop & Shelter Improvements in Jacksonville
- Department of Transportation—Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
  - AIP community project requests may be used for enhancing airport safety, capacity, and security, and mitigating environmental concerns. (Does not include Contract Towers)
  - Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor
    - Project Example: Treasure Coast International Airport (FPR) Runway Extension
- **\*New for FY24\*** Department of Transportation—Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
  - Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project
  - Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project
  - Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities.
    - Project Example: Rail crossing improvements and gate construction
- **\*New for FY24\*** Department of Transportation—Port Infrastructure Development Program
  - The grant will be used to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the loading and unloading of goods at the port, such as for marine terminal equipment; the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port, such as for highway or rail infrastructure, intermodal facilities, freight intelligent transportation systems, and digital infrastructure systems; operational improvements, including projects to improve port resilience; or environmental and emission mitigation measures
  - Priority will be given to projects at small inland river and coastal ports and terminals
- Department of Housing and Urban Development—Economic Development Initiative (EDI)
  - EDI community project requests may be used for economic and community development activities, including land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation of housing or facilities, construction, and capital improvements of public facilities (including water and sewer facilities), and public services.
  - Administered by state, local, or tribal governmental entities or non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations
  - Eligible projects:
    - Water or sewer infrastructure projects, which are not otherwise eligible to be funded as CPFs in EPA STAG (Interior bill) or Rural Water and Waste (Agriculture bill)

- Local road infrastructure, which is not otherwise eligible as a CPF in Highways (in this bill)
- Streetscape improvements
- Public or non-profit housing rehabilitation, housing development financing, residential conversions, and neighborhood revitalization projects, which would increase housing supply and/or improve housing affordability in the local community
- Projects with a clear economic development benefit, such as workforce training centers and manufacturing incubators
- Projects that meet a compelling local need consistent with the statutory purposes. For example, food banks in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, youth and senior centers, and multipurpose community centers.
- **Not eligible projects:**
  - Museums, commemoratives, memorials
  - Swimming pools, water parks, golf courses
  - Healthcare facilities
  - Venues strictly for entertainment purposes – e.g., theaters and performing arts venues

### **Military Construction and Veterans Affairs**

- Military Construction and planning and design accounts under the Department of Defense including , Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Air Force, Defense-Wide, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve
  - The eligible lists of community projects are those that are submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense or his/her designee.
  - Projects that only appear on a list or FYDP provided by a base commander will not be accepted
  - Eligible lists include:
    - Future Year Defense Program (FYDP)
    - Unfunded Requirements/Unfunded Priorities Lists (UFRs/UPLs)
    - Cost-to-completes (CTCs)
  - Project Example: Navy Florida Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island Lighterage and Small Craft Facility: Planning and Design

### **Homeland Security**

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
  - Grants for property protection, storm water mitigation, and other projects to mitigate the effects of disasters.
  - Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program will be considered for funding, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable.
    - Project Example: Bermuda Boulevard Seawall Improvements in Tampa
- Emergency Operations Center Grants
  - New construction or renovations for state or local emergency operation centers
  - Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable, will be considered for funding
  - For any projects designated for funding in the final fiscal year 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective state administrative agency (SAA) must submit an application

to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and that agency will serve as the administrative agent for the grant. Therefore, all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate SSA affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

- Project Example: Funding for Hardee County, FL Emergency Operation Center

## **Interior**

- Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) for the Clean Water and Drinking Water state Revolving Funds
  - STAG grants can be used for wastewater treatment facilities, sewer pipes, storm water management, removal of septic tanks, and water reuse
  - 20% matching requirement by the locality; matching funds don't need to be in hand prior to requesting a project, but must present a plan to get the funding to show the project is viable.
    - Project Example: Town of Lantana for a Water Main Repair Project

## **Agriculture (Please note that a rural designation is required for these programs, which only parts of western and northern Palm Beach County may be eligible)**

- Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Buildings and Facilities
  - Facility requests must be for ARS-owned facilities or for facilities that will enhance ongoing ARS work.
  - Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.
- Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants
  - ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grants funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream.
- Community Facilities Grants
  - Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Essential community facilities include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, or other community support services.
  - Examples of eligible projects include medical or dental clinics, towns halls, courthouses, childcare centers, police or fire departments, public works vehicles, or distance learning equipment. Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents)
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
  - The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.
  - Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations
  - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Conservation Operations has four major program components: Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers.

- Examples of specific objectives include reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.
- **\*New for FY24\*** Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants
  - This program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal, sewer collection, solid waste collection, and storm water collection in rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less.

### **Financial Services and General Government**

- House Republicans banned all CPF's from this subcommittee

### **Defense**

- House Republicans banned all CPF's from this subcommittee

### **Labor, Health, and Human Services**

- House Republicans banned all CPF's from this subcommittee